

In re Patent Application of:  
PIO  
Serial No. 09/779,956  
Filed: 02/09/2001

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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application. Claims 8-25 remain pending in the application, with Claims 8-17 being directed to the elected invention. Favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-17 were rejected in view of Patelmo et al. (EP No. 0996161) for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is requested.

The present application is a divisional application of application Serial No. 09/364,766 filed July 30, 1999 and which claims foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of an Italian application (MI 98 001769) filed July 30, 1998, a certified copy of which has been filed in parent application Serial No. 09/364,766. The cited European patent publication (EP No. 0996161) was published on April 26, 2000 and filed on October 20, 1998. Accordingly, the cited reference does not qualify as prior art against the present application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. If, after reviewing this Response, there are any remaining informalities which need to be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited and

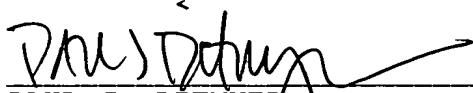
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respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone  
in order to resolve such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,



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